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ST. NEOTS

URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR

1965

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10 FEB 1967 R 31/3
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ST. NEOTS URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT:

for the year ending 31st December, 1965.

Mr. Chairman and Councillors,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report on the health and sanitary conditions of the District for the year 1965.

Vital Statistics

Population Two factors have contributed to the substantial increase of 2,750 in this year's population figure. One is the continued development of the town itself and the other is the inclusion of the parish of Eaton Socon within the Urban District of St.Neots and Eynesbury. The combined population is now therefore in the region of 10,000 and is expected to increase by approximately 1,000 per year for the next few years at least.

Birth Rate The crude birth rate this year shows a considerable decrease compared with 1964. This is not surprising in view of the changes which have occurred in the size and constitution of the population within the new urban district. The corrected birth rate for the town, however, (18.4) is fractionally in excess of the national figure.

Death Rate The death rate shows a slight rise compared with last year's figure but still remains well below the rate for England and Wales as a whole. Almost half the deaths (49%) occurred in persons of 75 years or over and 70% occurred in persons of 65 years or over.
20% of deaths were due to cancer and 35% resulted from disease of the cardio-vascular system.

Infant Mortality Three infants died within one year of life giving an infant mortality rate of 14.6. This is still

well below the national average although it is a little higher than last year's figure.

Infectious Disease The incidence of notifiable infectious disease was somewhat greater this year compared with 1964 principally on account of the greater number of cases of measles - an outbreak of which occurred during the first half of the year when 169 cases were notified within the six months. Four sporadic cases of suspected food poisoning were notified during the year but despite the fact that each case was fully investigated it was not possible to establish the source of infection in any of the cases mentioned.

Social Conditions

Housing. 199 houses were completed in 1965, including 111 Council houses for local needs and in connection with the Town Development Schemes. During the Spring a start was made on the extension of the Close - principally for rehousing the older people with a resident warden. These should be available for occupancy from about July 1966. An official enquiry was held in respect of 18 houses in Russell Street, and the Minister later confirmed a Compulsory Purchase Order without amendment. A further such enquiry related to a proposed Clearance Order for 19 properties in Luke Street and Silver Street, and the Minister's decision is still awaited.

Contract 11 was commenced during 1965 for sewers rising mains and pumping stations at Brickills and Cemetery Lane.

Work continued regarding the Disposal Works on the design for increasing the capacity of the Works to deal with the expansion of the town generally.

In conclusion I should like to express my thanks to Mr.Ostler and all other members of the Department's staff for the assistance they have given me, and for all the work they have carried out during the year.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant,

JAMES CALDWELL.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

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STAFF

Medical Officer of Health:

J. Caldwell, L.R.C.P. & S (ED)., L.R.F.P & S (GL)., D.P.H.

Public Health Inspector:

R.A. Ostler. M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H.

Meat Inspector Assistant (Authorised)

R. Anderson (Cert.of Meat R.S.A. - Scotland)

St.Neots Urban District

GENERAL STATISTICS

Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

During the year the urban portion of the adjoining parish of Eaton Socon, previously part of Bedford R.D.C., was included within the district of this Council.

Total area: 2,722 acres.

St.Neots:	996 acres.
Eynesbury:	395 acres.
Eaton Socon:	1331 acres.

Estimated population:

Mid - 1964	7,150.
Mid - 1965	10,600.

No.of inhabited houses: 3,280.

Rateable value:

As at 30th September 1965:	£407,000.
Product of a penny rate:	£1,672.

ST.NEOTS URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Vital Statistics for the year 1965

Estimated mid year home population.....9,900.

Live Births	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	118	79	197
Illegitimate	3	5	8
TOTALS ...	121	84	205

Birth rate per 1,000 estimated population.....20.7
Birth rate corrected by comparability (.89).....18.4.
Birth rate per 1,000 population (England and Wales)..18.1.

Still Births

Legitimate	2	-	2
Illegitimate	-	-	-
TOTALS ...	2	-	2

Still birth rate per 1,000 total live and still births.... 9.7.
Still birth rate per 1,000 total live and still births (England and Wales)..15.7.

Deaths	34	52	86

Death rate per 1,000 estimated population .....8.7.
Death rate corrected by comparability factor (1.10).....9.6.
Death rate per 1,000 estimated population (England and Wales)..... 11.5.

Infant Mortality - Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age.

	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	1	2	3
Illegitimate	-	-	-
TOTALS	1	2	3

Infant Mortality rate (Deaths of infants under 1 year per live and still births....14.6

Infant Mortality rate (England and Wales) ..... 19.0.

Table classifying deaths under age groups

Age	Male	Female	Total
Under 4 weeks	-	2	2
4 weeks and under 1 year	1	-	1
1 year and under 5 years	1	-	1
5 and under 15 years	1	1	2
15 and under 25 years	1	1	2
25 and under 35 years	-	1	1
35 and under 45 years	-	2	2
45 and under 55 years	1	2	3
55 and under 65 years	7	4	11
65 and under 75 years	7	12	19
75 years and over	15	27	42
TOTALS	34	52	86

ST.NEOTS URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

The following table indicates the trend in population, birth and death rates for the District over the past 5 years:-

	1961	1962	1963	1964	1965
Population	5,720	5,990	6,680	7,150	9,900
Live Births					
Total live births	100	122	165	174	205
Crude birth rate	17.5	20.4	24.9	24.3	20.7
Area comparability factor	.99	.99	.94	.85	.89
Corrected birth rate	17.3.	20.2	23.4	20.7	18.4
Birth rate (England and Wales)	17.4	18.0	18.2	18.4	18.1
Deaths					
Total deaths	49	59	60	59	86
Crude death rate	8.6	9.8	9.0	8.3	8.7
Area comparability factor	.96	.98	1.0	1.18	1.10
Corrected death rate	8.2	9.7	9.0	9.7	9.6
Death rate (England and Wales)	12.0	11.9	12.2	11.3	11.5

Notifications of Infectious Disease during 1965

		Total cases notified
Scarlet fever	...	1
Whooping cough	...	33
Diphtheria	...	-
Measles	...	172
Acute pneumonia	...	1
Puerperal pyrexia	...	1
Typhoid fever	...	-
Paratyphoid	...	-
Erysipelas	...	-
Acute poliomyelitis	...	-
Infective hepatitis	...	-
Food poisoning	...	4
Dysentery	...	-
TOTALS		212

St. Neots Urban District

TUBERCULOSIS

Total number on Register at 31st December,1965.... 34

Pulmonary.....31* Non-pulmonary..... 3.

Age Period	New cases - diagnosed Respiratory M	F	Non-Respiratory M	F	New cases -Transfers Respiratory M	F	Non-Respiratory M	F
0...								
5...								
10...								
15...								
25...	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
35 ..	-	-	-	-	2	1	-	-
45 ...								
55...	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
65 and upwards								
TOTALS	-	1	-	-	3	1	-	-

No action was found to be necessary under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations,1952 in connection with persons suffering from tuberculosis employed in the milk trade, or under section 172 of the Public Health Act,1936 which deals with the compulsory removal to hospital of persons suffering from tuberculosis.

* 9 transferred to St.Neots Urban District on the amalgamation with Eaton Socon on the 1st April, 1965.

St.Neots Urban District

Causes of Deaths

(Registrar General's List)

List No.	Cause	Male	Female
5.	Whooping cough	1	-
9.	Other infective and parasitic diseases	-	1
10.	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	1	1
12.	Malignant neoplasm, breast	-	3
13.	Malignant neoplasm, uterus	-	2
14.	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	5	6
15.	Leukaemia, aleukaemia	1	-
17.	Vascular lesions of nervous system	3	2
18.	Coronary disease, angina	6	5
19.	Hypertension with heart disease	-	3
20.	Other heart disease	-	5
21.	Other circulatory disease	2	4
22.	Influenza	3	1
23.	Pneumonia	2	4
24.	Bronchitis	2	2
25.	Other disease of respiratory system	2	-
26.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	-	2
27.	Gastritis,enteritis and diarrhoea	2	-
30.	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	-	1
31.	Congenital malformations	-	2
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	3	4
33.	Motor vehicle accidents	1	-
34.	All other accidents	-	3
35.	Suicide	-	1
	Total all causes	34	52

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

(a) Laboratory Facilities

The following Laboratory facilities have been available to this Authority and to General Practitioners in the area:-

Public Health Laboratory Service, Tennis Court Road, Cambridge (Tel: Cambridge 55526)

Public Analyst, (S.Greenburgh,PH.D., B.Sc., F.I.C.) Tennison Road, Cambridge (tel:Cambridge 2097)

(b) Ambulance Service

Ambulances administered by the County Ambulance Service operating in conjunction with the County Fire Service, have been available on doctor's orders. (Tel: Huntingdon 348).

(c) Home Nursing

Two Nurse/Midwives living in St.Neots (Tel:St.Neots 215 and 725) employed and supervised by the Huntingdon County Council, carried out Home Nursing and attended Maternity Cases in the District.

(d) Clinic and Treatment Centres

(i) The following Health Services were provided by the Huntingdon County Council:-

Clinic	Patients seen	When held	Where held
Minor Ailments	Schoolchildren	1st Thursday in month 10.30-11.30 a.m.	The Clinic Almond Road St.Neots.
Infant Welfare	Children (0-5 years)	Every Thursday 2-4 p.m.	-ditto-
Dental	Pre-school and Schoolchildren Pre-natal and Nursing Mothers	Every Tuesday and Thursday 9-12 noon 1.30-4.30 p.m.	-ditto-

(ii) The following Health Services were provided by the Regional Hospital Board:-

Clinic	Patients seen	When held	Where held
Chest	All ages	Every Thursday 10-12 noon	County Hospital, Huntingdon
Venereal Disease	All cases	Tuesday 3-6.30 p.m.	Addenbrookes Hospital, Cambridge
	Males	Monday 4.30-6.30 p.m. Tuesday 5.30-7 p.m.	Out-Patients Dept., Memorial Hospital, Peterborough
	Females and Children	Tuesday 10.30-12.30 p.m. Thursday 4.30-6.30 p.m.	
Orthopaedic	Pre-school and Schoolchildren	1st and 3rd Monday in each month (Sister) 10.0 a.m. - 12 noon.	The Clinic, Almond Road, St.Neots.

(iii) The following service is provided under the Supplementary Ophthalmic Scheme of the National Health Service:-

Clinic	Patients seen	When held	Where held
Ophthalmic	Pre-School and Schoolchildren	1st and 3rd Friday in each month 10.30-12 noon, 2-3 p.m. (by appointment except in emergency)	Health Clinic Nursery Road Huntingdon

Medical, Surgical, Orthopaedic, Paediatric, Skin, Obstetrical, Gynaecological and Dental Out-Patients clinics are held at Huntingdon County Hospital and Addenbrookes Hospital Cambridge to which General Practitioners can refer their patients for specialist investigation.

(e) Hospital Services

Fever Cases of Infectious Disease requiring hospital treatment were admitted to Isolation Hospitals at Cambridge, Peterborough or Ely.

General Hospital Services were provided by the County Hospital Huntingdon and Addenbrookes Hospital, Cambridge.

Maternity Cases were admitted to Primrose Lane Maternity Hospital, Huntingdon and to Mill Road Maternity Hospital, Cambridge.

REPORT OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR FOR 1965

To the Medical Officer of Health.

Sir,

I am glad to submit my fourth Annual Report for the year 1965 for inclusion with your own.

A survey of two areas in the district showed a fair proportion of older tenanted houses lacking essential amenities of improvement. Although no immediate decision has been made to declare an Improvement Area it is apparent that compulsive powers under the new Housing Act could be usefully applied in future.

A further increase in slaughtering of animals brought difficulties at peak periods, but my assistant Mr.Anderson has most competently maintained inspection of all meat to Regulation standards. An unusual discovery made was that of anthrax in the carcases of pigs from a particular farm, and careful control measures were taken.

In July the Council approved a new five-year programme of slum clearance, listing in all eighty-seven houses. In the preceding five years successful action had been taken in respect of sixty-five houses, mainly by Clearance Area procedure.

I have appreciated your cordial advice and help, and the support given by the Chairman and members of the Council.

I am, Sir,
Your obedient Servant,

R.A. OSTLER.
Public Health Inspector.

LICENSES ISSUED

Caravan Sites etc. Act, 1960

One site only, containing 40 caravans, was licensed under the Act. The Council assumed control at the end of the year.

Slaughter of Animals Act

Slaughterman's Licenses (renewal)	8

Slaughterhouses Act, 1958

Private abattoir	1

Game Act, 1931

Game dealers	4

Pet Animals Act, 1951

Pet Shops	3

Food and Drugs Act, 1955

Registrations for storage and sale of icecream etc. to date	47
Registrations of milk distributors, to date	5

Petroleum (Regulation) Acts, 1928 and 1936

Storage of petroleum spirit	33
Storage of petroleum mixtures	6
Storage of carbide of calcium	3

One successful prosecution was taken against a local filling station for the storage of petrol without a licence, and a fine of £20 was imposed.

One new storage installation was satisfactorily constructed and licensed during the year.

Scrap Metal Dealers Act, 1964

Registrations effected during the year	4

INFORMAL FOOD - SAMPLES

The following samples were taken during the year and submitted to the Public Health Laboratory in Cambridge:

Icecream

Grade I	- satisfactory	32
Grade II	- satisfactory	3
Grade III	- unsatisfactory	4
Grade IV	- unsatisfactory	Nil

The samples classed as Grade III were taken from bulk containers in hotel kitchens, where greater care in storage and sterilisation of servers was found necessary.

Water Ice

8 samples were taken, all being satisfactory.

Milk

20 samples were taken from two dealers in the town, and all were satisfactory.

Cream

Of seven samples of cream taken after filling cartons from larger containers on dealers' premises, three showed excessive contamination due to lack of care in the cartoning process. It is unfortunate that this practice is not prohibited, as is the case with designated milk.

Water

A total of 26 samples of water were taken for bacteriological examination, as follows:

From town mains	16	satisfactory
From public swimming pool	8	"
From shallow wells	2	"

Nitrates in water supply

Some concern was caused by a sharp rise in the nitrate content of water from two of the shallow wells from which the district is supplied, reaching as high as 20 p.p.m. The Ministry advised that this was probably due to lack of rainfall only but that the level should be watched.

Fifteen samples taken over a period showed a gradual fall in nitrate content to the safe level of only 8 p.p.m.

A new supply of low nitrate content will become available from Diddington in early 1966.

MEAT INSPECTION

One hundred per cent inspection in accordance with the Meat Inspection Regulations was maintained throughout the year at the only abattoir in the district. A full-time Inspector was in attendance during almost the entire period of slaughtering hours, which are fortunately moderate in extent.

A new development is the slaughter of animals for export, mainly to France, which is expected to increase rapidly following Ministry approval of the abattoir for this purpose. The following table shows the number of animals killed and inspected during 1965, the comparative figures for 1964 being shown in brackets:-

Cattle	Cows	Calves	Sheep	Pigs	Total
1,601	19	21	20,350	27,247	49,238
(2,804)	(16)	(59)	(17,007)	(25,516)	(45,402)

The total number of animals shows an increase of 8.5% over that for 1964, and is only 3.8% less than the record total attained in 1962.

Animals affected by disease or injury, and condemnations.

	Cattle	Cows	Calves	Sheep	Pigs
All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticercosis					
Whole carcases condemned	1	1	1	6	33
Part or organ condemned	375	1	3	1,254	3,977
Percentage affected	23.5%	10.5%	19%	6.2%	14.1%
Tuberculosis only					
Whole carcases condemned	-	-	-	-	-
Part or organ condemned	-	-	-	-	145
Percentage affected	-	-	-	-	0.53%

Cysticercosis

	Cattle	Cows	Calves	Sheep	Pigs
Part or organ condemned	5	-			
Carcase treated by refrigeration	-	-	(Not applicable)		
Generalised and condemned	-	-			

REASONS FOR CONDEMNATION

The following are the reasons for the seizure of whole carcases shown in the table above:

Cattle	Septic peritonitis (1)
Cows	Emaciation and oedema (1)
Calf	Joint ill (1)
Sheep	Emaciation and oedema (4) Septic metritis (1) severe bruising (1)
Pigs	Anthrax (confirmed)(2), Anthrax (suspected) (4) Multiple abscesses (8), Emaciation (3), Injury and bruising (3), General oedema (2), Septic arthritis (2), Gangrene (1), Moribund (2), Malnutrition (1), Chronic hepatitis with oedema (1), Septic peritonitis (2), Septic nephritis (1), Jaundice (1).

ANTHRAX IN PIGS

It will be of interest to record that anthrax was suspected during examination of the carcases of pigs sent for emergency slaughter from a local farm, and the Ministry later confirmed its presence in two cases.

The provisions of the Anthrax Order 1938 were followed, the carcases being burnt.

No person exposed to infection showed any subsequent symptom of the disease.

WEIGHTS OF MEAT CONDEMNED

	Tons	Cwt.	Qr.	Lb.
Offal	6	1	2	6
Beef	-	4	-	-
Veal	-	-	1	2
Mutton	-	2	2	8
Pork	4	1	1	21
	10	9	3	9

OTHER UNSOUND FOODS SURRENDERED FOR DISPOSAL

	Cwt.	Qr.	Lb.
Meat at retail shops	5	2	16
Cooked meat and meat products		1	27
Canned meats.		1	22
Other foods and miscellaneous canned goods	5	-	14
	11	2	23

In addition, 676 miscellaneous packets of frozen foods of unrecorded weight were accepted for disposal owing to refrigeration failure.

FOOD PREMISES IN DISTRICT

Sweets and confectionery	8
General Stores	32
Fishmongers	2
Dairies	2
Butchers	12
Bakers	3
Bread and cake shops	3
Hotels	6
Cafes and restaurants	8
Fish friers	1
Mobile fish friers' premises	1
Licensed premises	39
Greengrocers	6
Pie manufacturers	1
Manufacturers of frozen foods	1
Maltsters	1
Flour Mill	1
Works and School canteens	13

Factories on register

With mechanical power	72
Workplaces	7

Outworkers employed in the district

Assembly and painting of plastic toys	56
Leather work and glove manufacture	19

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963

Circulars were sent to all registered employers drawing attention to the Information for Employees Regulations 1965.

Most power-operated gravity-fed slicing machines in use by butchers, grocers etc. were found to be inadequately guarded, and letters were sent requiring the necessary safety devices.

A. Registration and General Inspections.

Class of Premises.	No. of premises registered during year.	No. of registered at end of year	No. of premises receiving general inspection during the year
Offices.	5	35	15
Retail shops	-	82	34
Wholesale shops, warehouses.	-	5	-
Catering establishments, canteens.	2	13	3
Fuel storage depots	-	1	-
	7	136	52

B. Total number of visits of all kinds made 92.

C. Analysis of contraventions found.

Contraventions in respect of:

Sec. 4.	Cleanliness	- 4	
Sec. 5.	Overcrowding	-	
Sec. 6.	Temperature	- 7	
Sec. 7.	Ventilation	- 3	
Sec. 8.	Lighting	- 18	
Sec. 9.	Sanitary conveniences	-8	
Sec.10.	Washing facilities	- 10	
Sec.11.	Supply of drinking water	-	
Sec.12.	Accommodation for clothing	1	
Sec.13.	Sitting facilities	- 1	
Sec.14.	Seats for sedentary workers	- 1	
Sec.15.	Eating facilities	- -	
Sec.16.	Floors, passages and stairs	- 5	
Sec.17.	Fencing of exposed machinery	- 8	
Sec.18.	Protection of young persons (machinery)	- -	
Sec.23.	Prohibition of heavy work	- -	
Sec.24.	First Aid provision	- 7	
	Total: ...		72

D. Exemptions. No applications for exemptions were received.

E. Prosecutions. No prosecutions were instituted.

F. Accidents. No accidents were reported during the year.

HOUSING

A. Repair - Housing and Public Health Acts.

(1) Sections 9,10 and 16. Housing Act 1957

No.of notices served - Informal - Nil.
Formal - Nil

(2) Public Health Acts.

No.of notices served - 14. Informal - 11
Formal - 3

No.of houses repaired after service of notices - 12

B. Beyond Repair - Housing Act, 1957

1. No.of undertakings accepted (Sec.16)	7
2. No.of Closing Orders made (Sec.17)	4
3. No.of demolition orders made (Sec.17)	19
4. No.of houses demolished	10
5. No.of Closing Orders (Sec.18)	-
6. No.of Closing Orders determined (Sec.18)	-

C. Clearance Areas

(1) Represented during the year

1.Number of areas	2
2.Houses unfit for human habitation	25
3.Houses included by reason of bad arrangement ...	15
4.Number of persons to be displaced	
(a) individuals ..	70
(b) families ...	33

C. Clearance Areas (cont'd)

(2) Action taken during the year

1. Houses demolished 10
2. Numbers of persons displaced
   (a) individuals - 10
   (b) families - 4

D. Improvement Grants (information supplied by Engineer and Surveyor)

(1) Standard Grants.

1. No.of applications approved
   (a) owner/occupiers 3
   (b) tenanted houses 1
2. No.of dwellings improved
   (b) tenanted houses 1
3. Amount paid in grants ... £212.
4. Average grant per house ... £106
5. Amenities provided
   (a) fixed bath 2
   (b) washhand basin 2
   (c) hot water supply 2
   (d) W.C.(within dwelling) 2

(2) Discretionary Grants.

1. No.of applications received (tenanted houses) 4
2. No.of applications approved 4
3. No.of dwellings improved 2
4. Amount paid in grants £388
5. Average grant per house £194.

E. Housing Act, 1964

(1) Improvement Areas

Two districts were surveyed during the year, but no area has been declared.

(2) Dwellings outside improvement areas

1. No.of representations made by tenants	-	2
2. Immediate improvement notices served	-	1.

F. Rent Act, 1957

1. Applications for Certificates of Disrepair	-	Nil
2. Applications for cancellation	-	One
3. Certificates cancelled	-	One

G. Houses in Multiple Occupation

There is only one known house of this category, for which informal control has been found adequate.

RODENT CONTROL

The following include visits made by both the Public Health Inspector and the Rodent operative:-

	L.A.	Dwelling Houses	Business and others	Agricultural	Total
Inspections and re-inspections	40	427	321	2	790
Major rat infestations	-	-	-	-	-
Minor rat infestations	3	106	34	-	143
Mice infestations	3	17	12	-	32
Notices served (Sec.4)	-	-	-	-	